

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**JULY 28, 2006**

## **NORTH CAROLINA MAN CONVICTED OF MARIHUANA CHARGES**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that on July 26, 2006, a jury sitting in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, found **SAMUEL JUMPER**, of Elton, North Carolina, guilty of two charges. **JUMPER** was convicted of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute in excess of 1000 kilograms of marihuana and possession with intent to distribute marihuana in excess of 1000 kilograms of marihuana.

The evidence presented at trial proved that on October 9, 2005, a Troy, Illinois Police Officer who was on routine patrol, observed three individuals unloading large cardboard boxes from the back of a semi-tractor trailer into a mini-van parked at a truck stop. The officer investigated this suspicious activity and asked the individuals what they were doing and what was in the boxes. The defendant replied that the boxes contained dirty socks. The defendant told the officer that he and his partner were truck drivers and that they had been on the road for a long time and that he was giving his step-brother their laundry. The officer questioned the driver of the truck, who advised that the boxes contained pipe fittings and that he had extra boxes that he was disposing of. Given the inconsistent statements, this officer contacted the owner of the trailer, Land Star Inc., to inquire about the load and its destination. After receiving permission from Land Star, the officer entered

the back of the trailer and conducted a search resulting in the seizure of approximately 1099 kilograms of marihuana.

Two co-defendants previously entered pleas of guilty.

The evidence in this case was developed during an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois, and the Troy Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Deirdre A. Durborow.